

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, NEW ORLEANS,

MAY 19-21, 1931

TUESDAY MORNING

The thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Medical Library Association was called to order at ten o'clock by the President, Dr. Archibald Malloch.

We were made immediately aware of a cordial welcome when we were addressed by Dr. C. C. Bass, Dean of the Tulane University School of Medicine, and by Dr. E. E. Irwin, President of the Orleans Parish Medical Society. Dr. Malloch responded in his usual delightful way. Mrs. Flo Field pictured vividly the New Orleans of yesterday and of today.

The inspection of the libraries of Tulane University School of Medicine and of the Orleans Parish Medical Society was interesting and instructive, showing the differences and likenesses between libraries collected for different purposes.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Meeting called to order at two o'clock.

After the reading of the minutes by the secretary the president called attention to slight changes in the wording of the constitution that were made at Montreal. With this correction the minutes were approved. Miss Tye, Chairman, read the report of the Executive Committee. Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were accepted. Miss Schramm, Chairman of the Membership Committee read her report, after which new members already approved by the executive committee were voted upon and declared elected to membership in the association.

Miss Schramm called attention to the fact that there had been an application for membership in the association from the First Institute of Podiatry. This was discussed briefly. Dr. Malloch said their aim seemed sincere, that the institute hoped to be incorporated with New York University. It was decided to hold the matter in abeyance until their aim and methods were more definitely established.

Miss Noyes, Chairman of the Nominating Committee gave her report. She told how hard it was to get two people for each office to be placed on the ticket. She thought it would be better to require only one set of nominations from the nominating committee, calling attention to the fact that there was always a chance for a ticket to be sent in by ten members. Dr. Malloch called attention to the constitution and suggested that if she wished she might prepare an amendment to that effect to be presented through the secretary in time to have a vote on it at the next meeting. Nominees should be found willing to serve before their names are printed on the ballot.

The ballots having been prepared beforehand they were passed to the members present who voted and the votes were counted together with those that had been received by mail. The following officers were declared elected:

President, Dr. Walter R. Steiner, Hartford, Conn.
Vice President, Dr. LeRoy Crummer, Los Angeles, Calif.
Secretary, Miss Marjorie Darrach, Detroit, Mich.
Treasurer, Miss Mary Louise Marshall, New Orleans, La.
Executive Committee, Miss Edna M. Poole, Toronto, Canada.
Nominating Committee, Mrs. Mildred S. Farrow (One year).

According to the constitution a member can only serve three years out of five on the nomination committee, therefore, since Mrs. Farrow has served two years she could be elected for only one year more.

No report having been received from the publication committee the secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Ballard so that it could be included in the next bulletin.

Miss Lawrence, the efficient manager of the exchange read her report. She was asked her opinion of the "Want Lists." She said that the first year she was able to keep them down pretty well, that the second year she succeeded in limiting them, but that the third year different libraries almost demanded publication of want lists, and that she had succumbed against her better judgment. She wished the association to express themselves. Most of them had tried dealers and had found the prices too high for their budgets. It was flattering to the Exchange to receive the "wants," but it has become a grave problem. Miss Lawrence called attention to the position of the American University of Beirut. The exchange lists cannot reach them in time to be checked, so the only way they can do is to send wants.

Miss Biethan felt that the "wants" should be only for those items hard to find other places. She suggested that each library be limited to six single items requested in one year.

Mr. Harding said that he had been able to fill some of the wants and save his face and felt that in this way he had helped other members, he submitted a list of his duplicates which had been included in list number 9, issued April first.

Dr. Malloch said that if each library would list just one set of periodicals each month that it would help. Mr. Harding said he would try that.

Mrs. Hibbard wanted to know if there was any objection to listing magazines by title, to say, "send wants of AM. J. Med. Sci. vol. 3 on?" Dr. Malloch said the exchange could be all wants, but that this would be exactly opposite to the plan of the exchange. A want should be for one single number. There were listed among wants this year many things that are offered from time to time in the regular exchange. It is fair to all to watch and wait until the thing you need is offered.

Miss Loomis thought Miss Biethan's suggestion a good one.

Dr. Malloch said we should treat the exchange seriously. He advised Miss Lawrence to drop those that did not comply with the rule of offering material every two years.

Miss Lawrence said that she had had many letters of appreciation of what various libraries had received through want lists. She did not approve of long lists or at all of requests for whole sets.

Miss Biethan asked if members should be dropped from Exchange if they had not received the bulletin? It was pointed out that the exchange did not depend on the bulletin.

Dr. Malloch suggested that the executive committee decide what policy should be followed and write the Manager of the Exchange about the decision.

The question of incorporating the association was brought up.

Miss Tye: . . . I have made some inquiries regarding the question of incorporating the Medical Library Association, since the matter was brought to my attention by Miss Biethan. It seems that we would fail to be considered for a grant of funds by an organized foundation unless we were an incorporated institution. In this case, incorporation without delay certainly seems to our advantage.

We should carefully consider in which state we should apply for a charter, for laws vary in different states. Some states require organizations incorporated therein to hold their annual meetings in the state. This would be quite unsatisfactory for our Association. The laws of Delaware, I have been informed, are lenient in most respects, but I am not sufficiently familiar with them to be specific at present.

Court costs of incorporation are not very great, but lawyers' fees are as variable as those of doctors. Expert legal knowledge is necessary, however, in drawing up a proper charter.

The question was asked as to whether incorporating the M. L. A. would entail a change of name. Simply adding *Inc.* to our official title would not be considered a change from a legal standpoint.

The matter of incorporation has been discussed before in the Association, and since it has come up again, it would seem wise to have a special committee appointed to look into the details of the procedure.

Mrs. Hibbard: I move that the incoming Executive Committee take the matter under advisement and inform the association at its next meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Harding. Carried.

The advisability of publishing a manual of instruction was discussed.

Miss Noyes: We planned such a manual at one time. We even went so far as to get a price from Williams and Wilkins and from Mr. Hoeber.

Miss Biethan: We already have Mr. Gilchrist's chapter on the construction of reading rooms.

Dr. Malloch: Each library could make a list of useful handbooks.

Miss Darrach: A list of Reference books would be helpful. This could be published in the bulletin.

Miss Noyes: Many aids are listed in the Surgeon General's Index, Hirsch, and the French Dictionary.

The article in regard to the annual meeting was read. The secretary read invitations from Stanford University to meet in San Francisco, from Rochester Academy of Medicine, from Mayor Frank Murphy of Detroit and a telegram from the Commercial club of Kansas City. Miss Hallam of Oregon wrote that she would be glad to have the association meet in Portland, but would not compete with the invitation to San Francisco, hoping that many would make plans to stop in Portland coming or going.

Mrs. Hibbard knew nothing of the invitation from Kansas City, but hoped that the association would plan to come to Kansas City in the near future. Miss Loomis mentioned that Chicago would like to have us in 1933.

Miss Noyes moved, Miss Loomis seconded, that we meet in San Francisco. Carried.

The president suggested that the constitution be reprinted with change in wording. Meeting adjourned.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Mr. Van Patten not being present, nor having sent his paper to be read, Dr. Malloch kindly consented to read to us a paper on Sir William Osler, which he illustrated with slides.

Miss Runge read an instructive paper on "Teaching the use of the Library." This was followed by a short discussion.

Miss Loomis: Are your rare books referred to so often that they are being worn out?

Miss Lawrence: Dr. Seelig of our clinical faculty gives eight lectures on the "History of Medicine." Some of the students go to sleep in class. The book he wrote is worn out at the end of the course.

Miss Noyes: How about having photostat copies of things like Beaumont?

Dr. Malloch: What books have we that others would want to use in photostat?

Miss Lawrence: What about incunabula? Should we allow students to use them?

Dr. Malloch: There is some real pleasure in being able to handle the "real thing."

Miss Lawrence: A good plan to follow in displaying books is never to have a book open at the same place for more than three weeks, less if possible.

Miss Frances B. Van Zandt, not being able to be present, sent an outline of her remarks, which were read by the secretary. The subject

was a Phase of Medical Library Service. The service is that of lending material from the library to individuals on a large scale. Discussion followed.

Miss Biethan: My objection to the scheme is that it makes the library responsible for the literature for many men who are perfectly able to buy material themselves. I know of one doctor in Wisconsin who gets through this service the latest surgical magazines sent to him as they arrive, so that he does not need to subscribe.

Mr. Harding: In Cleveland we have had a delivery system in operation for the past three years. We pay a man a flat rate per week, he furnishes his own automobile. Any member may telephone his wants and the books are delivered to him within two hours if the call comes before 2:00 P. M., if later, the books are then delivered the next day. When the books are due for return the messenger calls for them and returns them to the Library; no charge is made for this service. I regret to state that only about one-fourth of our members take advantage of this.

Mrs. Hibbard: I should call this very special service. Why do doctors need it? Should we give it?

Dr. Malloch: We lend to fellows of the Academy; to any medical library in New York State. We keep a man busy delivering things, but he also goes after books that are given to the Academy, and on other errands. We charge twenty-five cents for delivery and twenty-five cents for going after the book.

Miss Noyes: I think it would be nice to send a greeting to Dr. Ruhrah from the association, since he was not well enough to attend. I can give the address to the secretary.

Dr. Malloch: It has been suggested that we send greetings to Dr. Ruhrah. He was at one time president of the association and for many years was a most excellent treasurer, with his heart in the welfare of the association. The secretary was instructed to send greetings from the association in session at New Orleans.

The meeting then adjourned to the Medical History Room of the Medical School Library where we were entertained by "Thoughts on the History of Medical Art," illustrated by the collection which was recently presented to the school by the speaker, Dr. Fayette C. Ewing.

THURSDAY MORNING

The meeting was called to order by the president. Mrs. J. G. Nichols had received a night letter from Miss Helen Bayne. This was read by the secretary. "Greetings to association from University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College Library. Sorry not to be at meeting, but felt that in spite of depression the committee might have sent me to New Orleans had association shown more vitality this past year. October 1930 bulletin received yesterday. Simply a year old record of a meeting. Bulletin should be prompt and readable. A well paid organizer could triple

membership and issue a real publication which would be more of a credit to our profession and the associations' founder."

Dr. Malloch expressed regret that the situation is as it is, and hoped that the coming year would show improvement.

Under unfinished business the report of the auditing committee was read and approved.

Miss Lawrence expressed thanks and appreciation of the faithful work of our out-going officers.

There was discussion of the bulletin. Miss Noyes said there was but one perfect set left and that it should be saved for the association. Miss Tye thought there should be an official set, and moved that the one set be bound for permanent record. Miss Noyes said most of the supply of the bulletin was at Baltimore together with other things that were connected with the association. It was suggested that Baltimore might be made the Archives of the Association. Dr. Malloch said that there ought to be such a place, that matters that seemed obvious at the time of happening became history later.

It was moved and seconded that the library of the Medico-Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland have deposited our archives, membership cards and those things to be kept for all time. Carried.

Miss Loomis asked where one should apply for back numbers. Dr. Malloch said that after the mailing was done the rest should be sent to Baltimore.

Miss Noyes said that the last Baltimore number was waiting for the minutes to be revised, that she was planning to get it out as well as the index to those published that far. The reason that it was not done to date was that the minutes needed so much revision.

Dr. Malloch suggested that it would be well for the Executive Committee to suggest to the Publication Committee what extra numbers of the bulletin should be published each time, based on a percentage of the membership.

Miss Biethan thought it would be well to have a new key list made soon. Miss Lawrence agreed that there were many changes that came to her from time to time. She asked if there would be any objection to a change in form. It was thought by some that an alphabetical list would be better than the geographical. Miss Lawrence was told to use her own judgment. She called attention to the fact that certain Canadian libraries wished their material sent by mail instead of express.

Dr. Malloch suggested that Miss Lawrence make a card of directions concerning all kinds of items connected with the exchange, and asking each library to make any changes necessary in address. This card could be sent out with the list to be returned to the manager of the exchange. He hoped that the exchange would be taken seriously, that the executive committee would not be commercially minded, that each member should

put all its cards on the table. He still has in mind a scheme for building up a large library in each section.

Miss Noyes suggested that librarians be requested to be sure about the date in sending lists for the exchange, that both the volume and date were necessary.

Dr. Malloch said that this would help to eliminate errors, because two mistakes would not often be made on the same reference. He wished Miss Lawrence to be very strict about not giving to libraries that give nothing in return.

Miss Tye: It is always with regret that we come to the end of our meetings. Before we go our various ways we wish to express to our hosts and hostesses of the past three days the sincere appreciation of the Association for the perfectly wonderful time we have all had in New Orleans.

We wish to thank Miss Marshall, Dr. C. C. Bass, Dr. Matas, Dr. Irwin, Dr. Ewing, Mr. Edward A. Parsons, the library staffs of Tulane and Orleans Parish Libraries, the ladies who so graciously entertained us, and every one who so hospitably received us into their city and into their hearts. We have had a wonderful time and wish to say thank you by rising in a body to express our appreciation of the nicest meeting we have ever had.